



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

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District Man Sentenced to Five-Year Prison Term For Attacking Ex-Girlfriend With Machete -Defendant Convicted of Aggravated Assault While Armed, Other Charges -

WASHINGTON - Jose Mauricio Vasquez-Guzman, 26, of Washington, D.C., was sentenced today to five years in prison on charges stemming from an attack last year in which he used a machete against his ex-girlfriend, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced.

Vasquez-Guzman was convicted by a jury in July 2011 of charges of aggravated assault while armed, assault with a dangerous weapon and simple assault. The verdict followed a trial in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. Vasquez-Guzman was sentenced by the Honorable Anthony C. Epstein.

According to the government's evidence, on September 3, 2010, at about 1:30 a.m., Vasquez-Guzman argued with his former girlfriend, then 23, about his visitation with their toddler daughter. During this argument, he struck the victim in the chest, grabbed the child, and fled into his basement apartment in the 4500 block of Georgia Avenue NW. The victim followed the defendant and attempted to gain entry into the apartment to get back her daughter.

Vasquez-Guzman eventually opened the door and brandished an 18-inch machete. He struck the victim with the broad side of the blade twice on the shoulder. He then struck her a third time with the sharp edge of the blade, slicing through her left forearm and fracturing the bone in two places. The victim lost consciousness and later underwent surgery at a hospital for her wounds.

In announcing the sentence, U.S. Attorney Machen commended Officers Eric Garcia-Burgos and Bernie Lyons of the Metropolitan Police Department, who were involved in the investigation and prosecution of this case. He also expressed appreciation to Paralegal Lamine Hendrix and Legal Assistant Charmonique Price, Domestic Violence Advocate Christina

Principe, of the Victim Witness Assistance Unit, and Assistant U.S. Attorneys Mona Sahaf and Elizabeth Gabriel, who indicted and prosecuted the case.

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